



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

Mr. H. Boyd, Press Officer
Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

80114

March 27, 1980

BISHOP ALLIN CABLES SYMPATHY TO EL SALVADOR

NEW YORK -- The Rt. Rev. John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop of the three-million-member Episcopal Church, has cabled the Roman Catholic archdiocesan office in San Salvador, El Salvador of his sadness upon hearing of the "senseless assassination" of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero.

The Central American prelate, an outspoken champion of human rights and a 1979 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, was assassinated on March 24 by four gunmen who walked up to him as he was saying a funeral Mass for his mother and shot him point blank. The scene of the shooting was the Divine Providence Hospital's chapel. Archbishop Romero's mother died a few days before the assassination.

Bishop Allin cabled the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador, which has been beset by bloody fighting for more than a year, that the slain archbishop's "Christian witness and faith in a better world have inspired many of us."

The Presiding Bishop asked the Church leaders, "Please accept deepest sympathy from your brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church U.S.A."

He offered an assurance to them: "Our prayers are with you and the whole people of El Salvador at this hour of sorrow. May peace and justice prevail in your country and around the world. Archbishop Romero will always be remembered as a modern Christian martyr."

There is an Episcopal Church presence in that country -- the Diocese of El Salvador, led by Bishop G. Edward Haynsworth.

Archbishop Romero, who was 63, had been threatened with death several times. Some have estimated that as many as 1,500 have died in the bloody war since Jan. 1, 1979.

#####

DP, DX, PR, PS

